

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;
matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract in the data processing system, wherein an asker owns the corresponding service futures contract and the ask order originates from the asker; and
transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, prior to transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder the method further comprises:
conveying funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract in the data processing system further comprises identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order identifies service futures contract options for the service order including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein receiving a bid order for a service futures contract further comprises obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

Claim 6 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the asker is represented by an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract in the data processing system further comprises:

identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder in the data processing system, wherein the service futures contract options for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point;

searching a plurality of available service futures contracts for at least one corresponding service futures contract in the data processing system, wherein the corresponding service contract includes service futures contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the bid from the bidder; identifying at least one corresponding service contract from the plurality of available service futures contracts contract in the data processing system;

comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service futures contract in the data processing system; and
identifying at least one corresponding service futures contract having a price match in the data processing system, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one corresponding service futures contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid order.

Claim 8 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 2 above, wherein conveying funds from the bidder to the asker further comprises:
receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a bidder and an ask order from an asker;
debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and
crediting an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 8 above, wherein transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:
receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder authorized intermediary to the seller's authorized intermediary for the corresponding service futures contract;
accessing a title record for the corresponding service futures contract; and
updating the title record for the corresponding service contract to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service futures contract.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 1 above, further comprising:
issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from an asker;
entering the ask order in a service contract database containing a plurality of ask orders, each ask order being associated with a service futures contract;
receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;
searching the service futures contract database on the basis of the bid order;
matching the bid order to the ask order in the data processing system; and
recording an ownership change of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, wherein the ask order identifies the asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:
receiving an asker's identity;
receiving an ask price from the ask order;
receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point;
and
receiving a title to the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, further comprises:

transmitting an identity of a last owner of record to the asker.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, wherein transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:

issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:

receiving an asker's identity;

receiving a royalty owner's identity;

receiving an ask price from the ask order; and

receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including a royalty fee.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 11 above, prior to recording the ownership change of the asker's service futures contract, method further comprises:

conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 17 above, conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract further comprises:

transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and

escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

Claim 19 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 11, further comprises: transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to the asker.

Claim 20 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 11, further comprises:

issuing a certificate of title to the bidder; and
transmitting an identity of the bidder to the asker.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
receiving an ask order for an asker's service futures contract;
receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;
matching the bid order with the ask order in the data processing system;
in response to matching the bid order with the ask order, determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market in the data processing system; and
processing the asker's service futures contract based on whether the asker's service futures contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 21, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of whether to process the asker's service futures contract in a cash market, processing the asker's service futures contract further comprises:
transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and
transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder following transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of whether to process the asker's service futures contract in a futures market, processing the asker's service futures contract further comprises:
calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service futures contracts are processed at mark to market time;
determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time;
on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and
transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 21, wherein determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:
getting a ripe time value for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to service delivery time and date that the asker's service futures contract must be processed in a cash market;
determining a performance time value, wherein the performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until the service delivery time and date of the asker's service futures contract;
comparing the performance time value with the ripe time value for the asker's contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract is processed in a futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise the asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service futures contract futures exchange, comprising:
receiving an ask order from an asker for an asker's service futures contract;
receiving a bid order from a bidder for a bidder's contract;
matching the bid order with the ask order in the data processing system;
transferring funds from the bidder to the asker in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein the bidder is the first bidder, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the bidder's contract is a first bidder's contract and the method further comprises:
receiving a second ask order from the bidder for the asker's service futures contract;
receiving a second bid order from a second bidder for a second bidder's contract;
matching the second bid order with the second ask order;
transferring funds from the second bidder to the first bidder in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and
transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the second bidder in response to transferring funds from the second bidder to the bidder.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 29 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 30 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 31 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order to the ask order is performed electronically.

Claim 32 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order from an asker is performed electronically by an asker's authorized intermediary and further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service futures contract futures exchange, comprising:
transmitting an ask order for an asker's service futures contract from the data processing system, wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the ask order includes an ask price;
receiving an indication, in the data processing system, that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and
receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 33 above, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future service delivery date and remote service delivery point.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 33 above, further comprising:
escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the royalty funds are equal in amount to a royalty fee.

Claim 36 (presently presented): The method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:
receiving information as to an identity of the bidder;
receiving a demand for service from a demander;
identifying the demander;
confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity of the bidder; and
performing a service for the demander.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:

- receiving notification of an issuance of an asker's service **futures** contract certificate of title, wherein the asker's service **futures** contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;
- receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the demander bears a certificate of title;
- authenticating the certificate of title as the asker's service **futures** contract certificate of title; and
- performing a service for the demander.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:

- generating a second bid order for seller's service **futures** contract owned by the bidder **in the data processing system**, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;
- receiving a notification, **in the data processing system**, that the second bid order matched an ask order for the asker's service **futures** contract; and
- making available second sales funds for ownership of the asker's service **futures** contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask price.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service **futures** contract futures exchange, comprising:
contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service provider;
generating an ask order **in the data processing system**, wherein the ask order is for an asker's service **futures** contract and further wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service **futures** contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;
receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and
receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service **futures** contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service futures contract futures exchange, comprising:
transmitting a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract to the data processing system, wherein the bid order identifies a bidder's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes a bid price;
receiving an indication from the data processing system that an ask price associated with an ask order for an asker's service futures contract from an asker has matched the bid price; and
transferring funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:
receiving an indication of ownership of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:
receiving a certificate of title for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the asker's service upon demand.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service **futures** contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting a conjunctive bid order to the data processing system, wherein the conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service **futures** contracts to form the conjunctive service and further each service **futures** contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service **futures** contract;

receiving an indication from the data processing system that a first ask price associated with a first ask order for a first seller's service **futures** contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from the conjunctive order in the data processing system;

receiving an indication from the data processing system that a last ask price associated with a last ask order for a last seller's service **futures** contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service **futures** contract and the last seller's service **futures** contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the conjunctive bid price.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services;

matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service futures contract in the data processing system, wherein a basis for matching is price of the service futures contract.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;

matching means for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract, wherein an asker owns the corresponding service futures contract and the ask order originates from the asker; and

transferring means for transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 45 above, further comprises:

conveying means for conveying funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the matching means for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract further comprises identifying means for identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order identifies service futures contract options for the service order including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the receiving means for receiving a bid order for a service futures contract further comprises obtaining means for obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

Claim 50 (presently presented): The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the asker is represented by an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the matching means for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract further comprises:

identifying means for identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service futures contract options for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point;

searching means for searching a plurality of available service futures contract s for at least one corresponding service futures contract, wherein the corresponding service futures contract includes service futures contract options that correspond to the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid from the bidder;

identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service futures contract from the plurality of available service futures contract;

comparing means for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service futures contract; and

identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service futures contract having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one corresponding service futures contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid order.

Claim 52 (presently presented): The system recited in claim 46 above, wherein conveying funds from the bidder to the asker further comprises:
receiving means for receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a bidder and an ask order from an asker;
debiting means for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and
crediting means for crediting an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 52 above, wherein the transferring means for transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:
receiving means for receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder's authorized intermediary to the seller's authorized intermediary for the corresponding service futures contract;
accessing means for accessing a title record for the corresponding service futures contract; and
updating means for updating the title record for the corresponding service futures contract to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service futures contract.

Claim 54 (original): The system recited in claim 45 above, further comprising:
issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from an asker;

entering means for entering the ask order in a service futures contract database containing a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service futures contract;

receiving means for receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;

searching means for searching the service futures contract database on the basis of the bid order;

matching means for matching the bid order to the ask order; and

recording means for recording an ownership change of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein the ask order identifies the asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:

receiving means for receiving an asker's identity;

receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order;

receiving means for receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point; and

receiving means for receiving a title to the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, further comprises:
transmitting means for transmitting an identity of a last owner of record to the asker.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:
issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 60 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:
receiving means for receiving an asker's identity;
receiving means for receiving a royalty owner's identity;
receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and
receiving means for receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including a royalty fee.

Claim 61 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55 above, prior to recording the ownership change of the asker's service futures contract, method further comprises:
conveying means for conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 61 above, the conveying means for conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract further comprises:
transferring means for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and
escrowing means for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

Claim 63 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:
transmitting means for transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to the
asker.

Claim 64 (presently presented): The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:
issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder; and
transmitting means for transmitting an identity of the bidder to the asker.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- receiving means for receiving an ask order for an asker's service futures contract;
- receiving means for receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;
- matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;
- determining means for determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
- processing means for processing the asker's service futures contract based on whether the asker's service futures contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

Claim 66 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 65, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

Claim 67 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the asker's service futures contract further comprises:

- transferring means for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and
- transferring means for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder following transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the asker's service contract further comprises:
calculating means for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service futures contracts are processed at mark to market time;
determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time;
transferring means for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time; and
transferring means for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 65, wherein the determining means for determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:
getting means for getting a ripe time value for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to service delivery and date time that the asker's service futures contract must be processed in a cash market;
determining means for determining a performance time value, wherein the performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until service delivery time and date of the asker's service futures contract;
comparing means for comparing the performance time value with the ripe time value for the asker's contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract is processed in a futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise the asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an ask order from an asker for an asker's service futures contract;

receiving means for receiving a bid order from a bidder for a bidder's contract;

matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;

transferring means for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and

transferring means for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 71 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein the bidder is the first bidder, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the bidder's contract is a first bidder's contract and the system further comprises:

receiving means for receiving a second ask order from the bidder for the asker's service futures contract;

receiving means for receiving a second bid order from a second bidder for a second bidder's contract;

matching means for matching the second bid order with the second ask order;

transferring means for transferring funds from the second bidder to the first bidder in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and

transferring means for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the second bidder in response to transferring funds from the second bidder to the bidder.

Claim 72 (original): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 73 (original): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 74 (original): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 75 (original): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein matching the bid order the ask order is performed electronically.

Claim 76 (presently presented): The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order from an asker is performed electronically by an asker's authorized intermediary and further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 77 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting an ask order for an asker's service futures contract, wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the ask order includes an ask price;
receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and
receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

Claim 78 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 77 above, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future service delivery date and remote service delivery point.

Claim 79 (original): The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
escrowing means for escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the royalty funds are equal in amount to a royalty fee.

Claim 80 (presently presented): The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:
receiving means for receiving information as to an identity of the bidder;
receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander;
identifying means for identifying the demander;
confirming means for confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity of the bidder; and
performing means for performing a service for the demander.

Claim 81 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving notification of an issuance of an asker's service futures contract certificate of title, wherein the asker's service futures contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;

receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the demander bears a certificate of title;

authenticating means for authenticating the certificate of title as the asker's service futures contract certificate of title; and

performing means for performing a service for the demander.

Claim 82 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:

generating means for generating a second bid order for seller's service futures contract owned by the bidder, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;

receiving means for receiving a notification that the second bid order matched an ask order for the asker's service futures contract; and

making means for making available second sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask price.

Claim 83 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

contracting means for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service provider;

generating means for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for an asker's service futures contract and further wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;

receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and

receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

Claim 84 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract, wherein the bid order identifies a bidder's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes a bid price;

receiving means for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an ask order for an asker's service futures contract from an asker has matched the bid price; and

transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

Claim 85 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving an indication of ownership of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 86 (currently amended): The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:

receiving means for receiving a certificate of title for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the asker's service upon demand.

Claim 87 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service futures contracts to form the conjunctive service and further each service futures contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service futures contract;

receiving means for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a first ask order for a first seller's service futures contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from the conjunctive order;

receiving means for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a last ask order for a last seller's service futures contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service futures contract and the last seller's service futures contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the conjunctive bid price.

Claim 88 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services;

matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service futures contract, wherein a basis for matching is price of the service futures contract.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
a bid and ask order matching system (BAMS) for receiving at least one bid order for a service futures contract from a bidder and at least one ask order for service futures contract from an asker and further for matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order and for generating a match notification.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
an authorized intermediary interface for interfacing with at least one authorized intermediary, wherein the authorized intermediary communicates one of the at least one bid order for a service futures contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service futures contract from the asker.

Claim 91 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service to an owner of the service futures contract relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

Claim 92 (original): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, further comprises:

a clearinghouse (CH) for receiving the match notification of a bid order and ask order match and in response to the match notification, transferring funds from the bidder to the asker, and further for communicating a fund transfer notification containing information about the transfer of funds.

Claim 93 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, further comprises:

a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service futures contract in response to the match notification and for communicating an ownership notification containing information about the owner of the service futures contract.

Claim 94 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:

a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service futures contract in response to the funds transfer notification and for communicating an ownership notification containing information about the owner of the service futures contract.

Claim 95 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:

a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service futures contract in response to the funds transfer notification and for generating a transferable certificate of title, wherein the transferable certificate of title represents ownership of the service futures contract.

Claim 96 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 90, further comprises:

a title management system (TMS) for recording ownership of the service futures contract in response to the funds transfer notification and for communicating an ownership notification containing information about the owner of the service futures contract to a service provider for the service futures contract.

Claim 97 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 90, wherein the title management system (TMS) receives a title to the service futures contract from a service provider.

Claim 98 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
an electronic telecommunications interface receiving one of the at least one bid order for a service futures contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service futures contract from the asker.

Claim 99 (currently amended): A data processing system as recited in claim 89, wherein the bid and order matching system (BAMS) further comprises:
an open outcry interface for communicating one of the at least one bid order for a service futures contract from the bidder and the at least one ask order for service futures contract from the asker.

Claim 100 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;

matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract, wherein an asker owns the corresponding service futures contract and the ask order originates from the asker; and

transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder.

Claim 101 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, prior to the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder the computer program product further comprises:

conveying instructions for conveying funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 101 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract further comprises identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.

Claim 103 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order identifies service futures contract options for the service order including at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point.

Claim 104 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a service futures contract further comprises obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

Claim 105 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the asker is represented by an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 106 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service futures contract with an ask order for a corresponding service futures contract further comprises:
identifying instructions for identifying service futures contract options for the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service futures contract options for the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point;
searching instructions for searching a plurality of available service futures contract s for at least one corresponding service futures contract, wherein the corresponding service futures contract includes service futures contract options that correspond to the service futures contract which is the subject of the bid from the bidder;

identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service futures contract from the plurality of available service futures contract;

comparing instructions for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service futures contract; and

identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service futures contract having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one corresponding service futures contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid order.

Claim 107 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 100 above, wherein the conveying instructions for conveying funds from the bidder to the asker further comprises:

receiving instructions for receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a bidder and an ask order from an asker;

debiting instructions for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and

crediting instructions for crediting an asker's authorized intermediary.

Claim 108 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 107 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the corresponding service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:

receiving instructions for receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder's authorized intermediary to the seller's authorized intermediary for the corresponding service futures contract;

accessing instructions for accessing a title record for the corresponding service futures contract; and

updating instructions for updating the title record for the corresponding service
futures contract to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service
futures contract.

Claim 109 (original): The computer program product embodied on a computer
readable medium recited in claim 100 above, further comprising:
issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 110 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service futures contract futures exchange, comprising:

- receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from an asker;
- entering instructions for entering the ask order in a service futures contract database containing a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service futures contract;
- receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;
- searching instructions for searching the service futures contract database on the basis of the bid order;
- matching instructions for matching the bid order to the ask order; and
- recording instructions for recording an ownership change of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 111 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, wherein the ask order identifies the asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

Claim 112 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:

- receiving instructions for receiving an asker's identity;
- receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order;

receiving instructions for receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point; and
receiving instructions for receiving a title to the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 113 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, further comprises:
transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of a last owner of record to the asker.

Claim 114 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder further comprises:
issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

Claim 115 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with an asker's service futures contract further comprises:
receiving instructions for receiving an asker's identity;
receiving instructions for receiving a royalty owner's identity;
receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and
receiving instructions for receiving a description of the asker's service futures contract including a royalty fee.

Claim 116 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110 above, prior to the instructions for recording an ownership change of the asker's service futures contract, method further comprises:

conveying instructions for conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 117 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 116 above, the conveying instructions for conveying funds for the asker's service futures contract further comprises:

transferring instructions for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and
escrowing instructions for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

Claim 118 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110, further comprises:

transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of a last titleholder of record to the asker.

Claim 119 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 110, further comprises:

issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the bidder; and
transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of the bidder to the asker.

Claim 120 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving instructions for receiving an ask order for an asker's service futures contract;

receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract;

matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;
determining instructions for determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market, in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
processing instructions for processing the asker's service futures contract based on whether the asker's service futures contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

Claim 121 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 120, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

Claim 122 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 120, processing instructions for processing the asker's service futures contract, in response to the determination to process the asker's service futures contract in a cash market, further comprises: transferring instructions for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker; and transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder following transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 123 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 120, processing instructions for processing the asker's service futures contract in response to the determination to process the asker's service futures contract in a futures market, further comprises: calculating instructions for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service futures contract s are processed at mark to market time; determining instructions for determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time; transferring instructions for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, ; and transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 124 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 120, wherein the determining instructions for determining whether to process the asker's service futures contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises: getting instructions for getting a ripe time value for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to service delivery time and date that the asker's service futures contract must be processed in a cash market; determining instructions for determining a performance time value, wherein the performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until service delivery time and date of the asker's service futures contract;

comparing instructions for comparing the performance time value with the ripe time value for the asker's contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract is processed in a futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise the asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

Claim 125 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from an asker for an asker's service futures contract;
receiving instructions for receiving a bid order from a bidder for a bidder's contract;
matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;
transferring instructions for transferring funds from the bidder to the asker in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and
transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the bidder in response to transferring funds from the bidder to the asker.

Claim 126 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 125 above, wherein the bidder is the first bidder, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the bidder's contract is a first bidder's contract and the computer program product further comprises:
receiving instructions for receiving a second ask order from the bidder for the asker's service futures contract;
receiving instructions for receiving a second bid order from a second bidder for a second bidder's contract;

matching instructions for matching the second bid order bid order with the second ask order;

transferring instructions for transferring funds from the second bidder to the first bidder in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and

transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the asker's service futures contract to the second bidder in response to transferring funds from the second bidder to the bidder.

Claim 127 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 128 (original): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask orders.

Claim 129 (original): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 130 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order is performed electronically.

Claim 131 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from an asker is performed electronically by an asker's authorized intermediary and further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

Claim 132 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting instructions for transmitting an ask order for an asker's service futures contract, wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the ask order includes an ask price;
receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and
receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

Claim 133 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 132 above, wherein the asker's service futures contract is a transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future service delivery date and remote service delivery point.

Claim 134 (original): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 132 above, further comprising:
escrowing instructions for escrowing royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the royalty funds are equal in amount to a royalty fee.

Claim 135 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 132 above, further comprising:
receiving instructions for receiving information as to an identity of the bidder;
receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander;
identifying instructions for identifying the demander;

confirming instructions for confirming the demander's identity matches the identity of the bidder; and
performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

Claim 136 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 133 above, further comprising:
receiving instructions for receiving notification of an issuance of an asker's service futures contract certificate of title, wherein the asker's service futures contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;
receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the demander bears a certificate of title;
authenticating instructions for authenticating the certificate of title as the asker's service futures contract certificate of title; and
performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

Claim 137 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 133 above, further comprising:
generating instructions for generating a second bid order for seller's service futures contract owned by the bidder, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;
receiving instructions for receiving a notification the second bid order matched an ask order for the asker's service futures contract; and
making instructions for making available second sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask price.

Claim 138 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- contracting instructions for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service provider;
- generating instructions for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for an asker's service futures contract and further wherein the ask order identifies an asker's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;
- receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a bidder has matched the ask price; and
- receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

Claim 139 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service futures contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting instructions for transmitting a bid order for a bidder's service futures contract, wherein the bid order identifies a bidder's service futures contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes a bid price;

receiving instructions for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an ask order for an asker's service futures contract from an asker has matched the bid price; and

transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the asker's service futures contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

Claim 140 (presently presented): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 139 above, further comprising:

receiving instructions for receiving an indication of ownership of the asker's service futures contract.

Claim 141 (currently amended): The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in claim 139 above, further comprising:

receiving instructions for receiving a certificate of title for the asker's service futures contract, wherein the asker's service futures contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the asker's service upon demand.

Claim 142 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

transmitting instructions for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service futures contract s to form the conjunctive service and further each service futures contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service futures contract;

receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a first ask order for a first seller's service futures contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from the conjunctive order;

receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a last ask order for a last seller's service futures contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service futures contract and the last seller's service futures contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the conjunctive bid price.

Claim 143 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving instructions for receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the service futures contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services; and

matching instructions for matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service futures contract, wherein a basis for matching is a price for the service futures contract.

Claim 144 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

receiving an ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from a speculator, said speculator not having an ownership interest in said service futures contract;

receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;

matching the bid order with the ask order in the data processing system; and

reconciling offsetting futures positions for the bid order and the ask order.

Claim 145 (original): The method recited in claim 144 above, wherein reconciling offsetting futures positions of the bid order and the ask order comprises:

recognizing the ask order as a short sale for a service futures contract; and

issuing a call against said speculator for an amount equaling a price for said service futures contract.

Claim 146 (original): The method recited in claim 144 above, wherein the bid order is a first bid order and the ask order is a first ask order and prior to reconciling offsetting futures positions the method comprises:

receiving a second bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the second bid order originates from the speculator;

matching the second bid order with a second ask order, said second ask order originates from a participant having an ownership interest in said service futures contract; and

wherein reconciling offsetting futures positions further comprises:

transferring ownership of the service futures contract from the participant to the bidder, via the speculator's bid and ask orders.

Claim 147 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

- receiving a plurality of ask orders for service futures contracts, wherein the plurality of ask orders originate from speculators, said speculators not having an ownership interest in said service futures contracts;
- receiving one ask order for service futures contract, wherein the one ask order originates from a service producer, said service producer having an ownership interest in one service futures contract;
- receiving a plurality of bid orders for service futures contracts, wherein the bid orders originates from a plurality of bidders;
- matching the plurality of bid orders with both the plurality of ask orders and the one ask order **in the data processing system**; and
- reconciling offsetting futures positions for the plurality of bid orders and with both the plurality of ask orders and the one ask order.

Claim 148 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

- receiving an ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from an asker;
- receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;
- matching the bid order with the ask order in the data processing system;
- holding the matching bid and ask orders;
- ascertaining an occurrence of time to mark to market; and
- reconciling offsetting futures positions for the bid order and the ask order in response to the occurrence of time to mark to market.

Claim 149 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

receiving an ask order for a service futures contract from an asker, said ask order defining first service futures contract options for the service futures contract;

analyzing said ask order for said first service futures contract options including at least an execution date and an ask price, said ask price being based both the execution date and the service having no residual value subsequent to the execution date;

receiving a bid order for a service futures contract from a bidder, said bid order defining second service futures contract options for a service futures contract;

analyzing said bid order for said second service futures contract options including at least an execution date and a bid price, said bid price being based both the execution date the service having no residual value subsequent to the execution date;

matching the bid price of the bid order with the ask price of the ask order **in the data processing system**; and

setting the value for the service based on the matching bid price for the contract.

Claim 150 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

- receiving an ask order for a service futures contract, wherein the ask order originates from an asker;
- receiving a bid order for a service futures contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;
- matching the bid order with the ask order in the data processing system; and
- reconciling offsetting futures positions for the bid order and the ask order.

Claim 151 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

- receiving an ask order for a service futures contract from an asker, said ask order defining first service futures contract options for the service futures contract;
- displaying said first service futures contract options to participants to the transportation service futures contract futures exchange, said first service futures contract options including at least an ask price;
- receiving a first bid order for the service futures contract from a first bidder, said bid order defining second service futures contract options for a service futures contract;
- displaying said second service futures contract options to the participants of the transportation service futures contract futures exchange, said second service futures contract options including at least a first bid price;
- receiving a second bid order for the service futures contract from a second bidder, said second bid order defining second service futures contract options including a second bid price, said second bid price being based in the first bid price displayed by the transportation service futures contract futures exchange;
- matching the second bid price of the second bid order with the ask price of the ask order **in the data processing system**; and
- setting the value for the service based on the matching second bid price for the contract.

Claim 152 (currently amended): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a transportation service futures contract futures exchange for a transportation market, comprising:

receiving an ask order for a service futures contract from a service producer, said ask order defining first service futures contract options for the service futures contract including at least an ask price, a royalty owner's identity and a royalty rate;

receiving a bid order for the service futures contract from a bidder, said bid order defining second service futures contract options including a second bid price, said second bid price being based in the first bid price displayed by the transportation service futures contract futures exchange;

matching the bid price of the bid order with the ask price of the ask order in the data processing system;

reconciling offsetting futures positions for the bid order and the ask order comprising:

ascertaining a royalty owner's identity from the first service futures contract options;

ascertaining a royalty rate from the first service futures contract options;

calculating a royalty fee from the royalty rate;

dispensing the royalty fee to the royalty owner;

dispensing the bid price less the royalty fee to a asker of the ask order having a matching ask price; and

transferring ownership of the service futures contract to a bidder of a bid order having the matching bid price.

Claim 153 (original): The data processing system implemented method recited in claim 152, wherein the royalty owner is the service producer.

Claim 154 (original): The data processing system implemented method recited in claim 152, wherein the royalty owner is a subsequent owner of the service futures contract.

Claim 155 (original): The method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order and the service futures contract is a first service futures contract, the method further comprises:

receiving a first ask order for a first service futures contract from a first asker, said

first ask order defining first service futures contract options for the service futures contract including at least a first ask price, first execution locations and a first execution time;

receiving a second ask order for a second service futures contract from a second

asker, said second ask order defining second service futures contract options for the service futures contract including at least a second ask price, second execution locations and a second execution time, wherein at least a portion of the first execution locations are different from the second execution locations;

receiving a bid order for third service futures contract from a bidder, said bid order

defining third service futures contract options for the third service futures contract including at least a bid price, third execution locations and an execution time interval;

matching the bid order to the first and second ask orders by forming conjunctive

relationships between the first service futures contract options and the second service futures contract options, comprising:

identifying a sequential relationship in the first execution locations and the second execution locations, that matched the third execution locations;

identifying a sequential relationship in the first execution time and the second execution time, that matched the third execution time interval; and

matching a sum of the first ask price and the second ask price match, to the bid price; and

transferring ownership of first service futures contract and the second service futures contract based on identified conjunctive relationships between the first service futures contract options and the second service futures contract options.

Claim 156 (new): A data processing system implemented method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

- receiving an order in the service contract futures exchange data processing system;
- parsing the order into order process type, contract type field, contract price field, delivery time field, and bidder identification field;
- identifying the order process type as a bid type process; and
- in response to identifying the order process type from the order, executing a bid process in the service contract futures exchange data processing system, comprising:
 - identifying the contract type as a futures contract for delivery of a particular type of service from the order;
 - accessing a database in the service contract futures exchange data processing system based on the contract type;
 - identifying a plurality of ask orders in the database;
 - searching the plurality of ask orders from the database;
 - returning at least one ask order for a futures contract for delivery of the particular type of service, based on the contract type field ;
 - returning at least one ask order for a futures contract for delivery of the particular type of service at the delivery time;
 - matching the contract price from the bid order to a contract price for one of the returned at least one ask order in the service contract futures exchange data processing system;
 - determining an identity for a contract owner of the futures contract for delivery of the particular type of service at the delivery time;

transferring ownership of the futures contract for delivery of the particular type of service at the delivery time from the contract owner to the bidder identified in the bidder identification field of the order futures contract for delivery of the particular type of service at the delivery time in ;

recording the bidder identified in the bidder identification field of the order as the owner of the service contract futures exchange data processing system;

establishing a price for the particular type of service at the delivery time based on the contract price; and

transmitting the established price for the particular type of service at the delivery time for displaying external to the service contract futures exchange data processing system.

Claim 157 (new): The data processing system recited in claim 156 further comprising:

offsetting futures positions for the bidder and the contract owner.